Chapter 28 「I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT OVER THE PHONE.」

HIROAKI SAMURA

BRRR

...YES, I'VE HEARD.
I WAS A LITTLE SUR-PRISED...
YES... YES...
THE SAME AS HERE, THEN. ALL RIGHT... OKAY, THANK YOU FOR CALLING.
PHEW...
SERIOUSLY...?
AFRICA

Minare... You made your bed, now lie in it.
We're gonna go live without anything ready at this rate.
THAT'S THE ONE THING I REALLY WANT TO AVOID, BUT...
SHIT, MAN! SERI-OUSLY?!

...BUT SINCE WE CAN'T RECORD ANYTHING ON LOCATION NOW, WHEN IT COMES TO PLANS THAT DON'T REQUIRE ANY PREP WORK, NATURALLY...
THE SHOW'S TONIGHT, SO I WENT AHEAD AND PICKED FROM THE LIST I PREPARED...
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TURN DOWN OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS BUT CAN'T COME UP WITH ANY OF YOUR OWN.
WAS THE ONLY OPTION LEFT. SORRY.
"...AND LET THE LISTENERS DECIDE WHO WAS IN THE RIGHT,"
"GET INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH YOUR PARENTS OVER THE PHONE..."
AHH, FUCK IT!
CLACK
I really screwed up this time. Now that I think about it, this is the one scenario I didn't want to do the most...
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY EXCITED.

...Hello?
OH... DAD?
IT'S ME, MINARE. YEAH... SORRY TO CALL SO LATE. HEY, LISTEN...
...I KINDA HATE MY NAME, SO DO YOU MIND IF I CHANGE IT TO "MIREI"?
...WHAT IS "MINARE," ANYWAY?
WHAT LANGUAGE IS THAT?
I DON'T GET WHAT IT MEANS, AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SOUND VERY NICE. IT'S LIKE, WHERE THE HELL DID YOU PULL THAT FROM?
...HUH?
I mean, for start-ers...
WE'RE GONNA MAKE THE LISTENERS SETTLE THIS TOPIC?
THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE A STAGE NAME FOR HER, TOO. 60% OF MRS'S* SPEAKERS USE ONE.

*MRS: MOIWAYAMA RADIO STATION

YOU CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR *THIS*?
...SIGH.
I went down to the book-store to buy a book of baby names.
Huh... so it wasn't just random?
That's surprisingly normal of you.
The origin of your name? Let's see...
I think it was two days after you were born.
美熱女芸能人お宝
秋蔵フォト100連発
週刊近代
CRUSH
DIAMOND
But I couldn't find any books worth note, and while I was browsing the magazine corner...

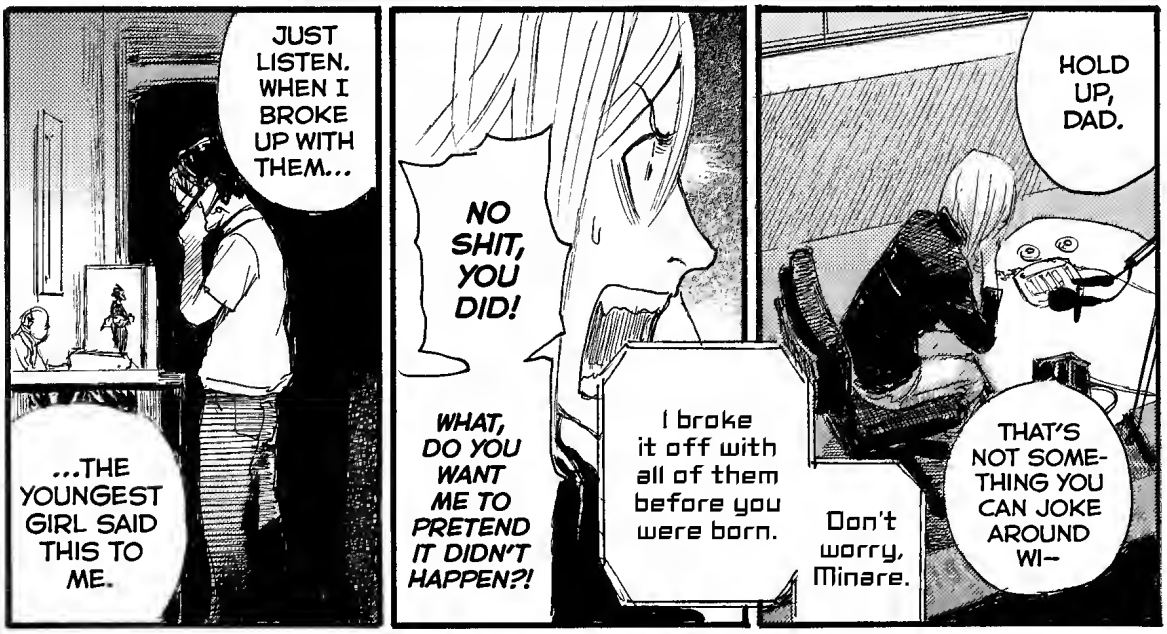
COMPLETE COLLECTION! 1970-1991
HOT COUGAR CELEBS
美熟女芸能
PRIZED 100-PHOTO SPREAD
秘蔵フォト
MI = HOT
NARE = COUGAR
美 熟

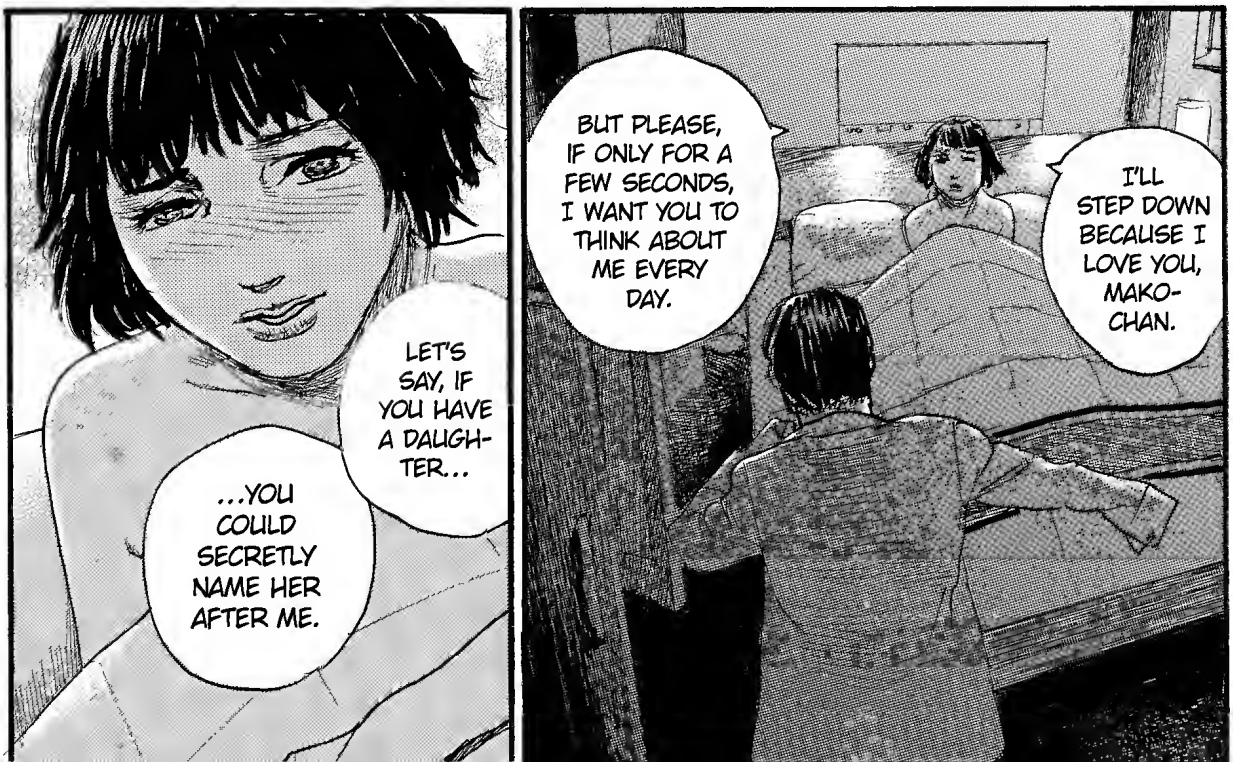
VERY WELL. I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
I'D HAVE PREFERRED TO TAKE THIS TO THE GRAVE WITH ME, IF POSSIBLE.

IT SEEMS YOU'VE SEEN THROUGH MY RUSE.
I only said I'll disown you if that's true.
To be honest, I wouldn't put it past you.

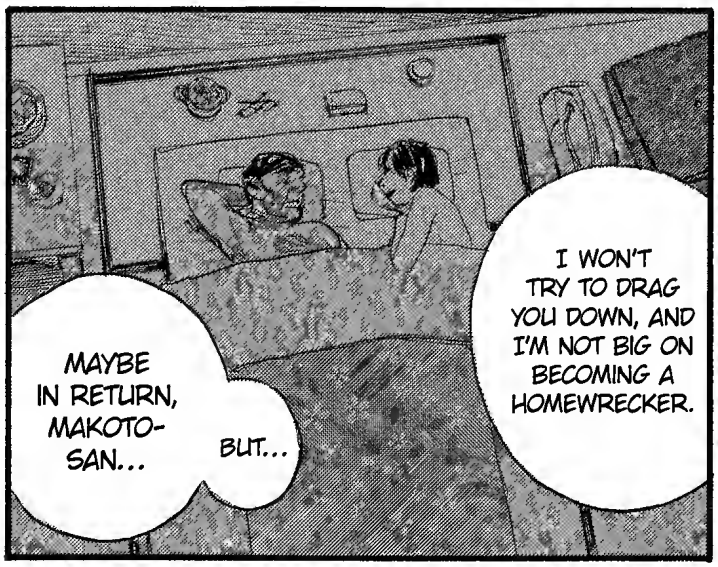
...IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN I'M DISOWNING YOU.

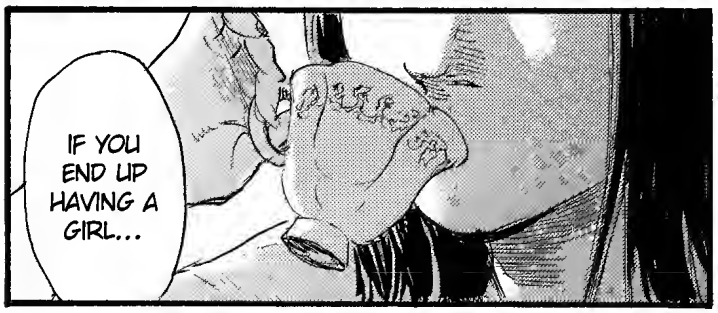
While Yui was pregnant with you...
...I had three mistresses at the time.
?!


HOLD UP, DAD.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JOKE AROUND WI—
Don't worry, Minare.
I broke it off with all of them before you were born.
NO SHIT, YOU DID!
WHAT, DO YOU WANT ME TO PRETEND IT DIDN'T HAPPEN?!
JUST LISTEN. WHEN I BROKE UP WITH THEM...
...THE YOUNGEST GIRL SAID THIS TO ME.


I'LL STEP DOWN BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, MAKO-CHAN.
BUT PLEASE, IF ONLY FOR A FEW SECONDS, I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT ME EVERY DAY.
LET'S SAY, IF YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER...
...YOU COULD SECRETLY NAME HER AFTER ME.

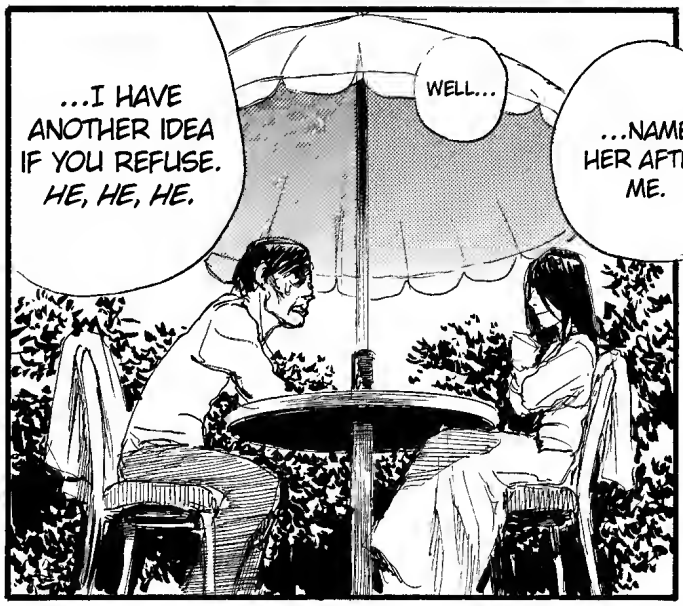
I SWEAR...
WHY ARE ALL WOMEN LIKE THAT?
WELL... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE IF THAT WAS ALL.


I WON'T TRY TO DRAG YOU DOWN, AND I'M NOT BIG ON BECOMING A HOMEWRECKER.
MAYBE IN RETURN, MAKOTO-SAN...
BUT...


IF YOU END UP HAVING A GIRL...

I GETCHA.
AND HER NAME WAS MINARE, RIGHT?
Nah, her name was Natsuko.
WHAT THE HELL?!

KODA-SAN! YOU HAVE AN ADORABLE LITTLE GIRL!


...I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA IF YOU REFUSE. HE, HE, HE.
WELL...
...NAME HER AFTER ME.

SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG.
LOOK.

I WANT YOU TO NAME HER, DEAR.

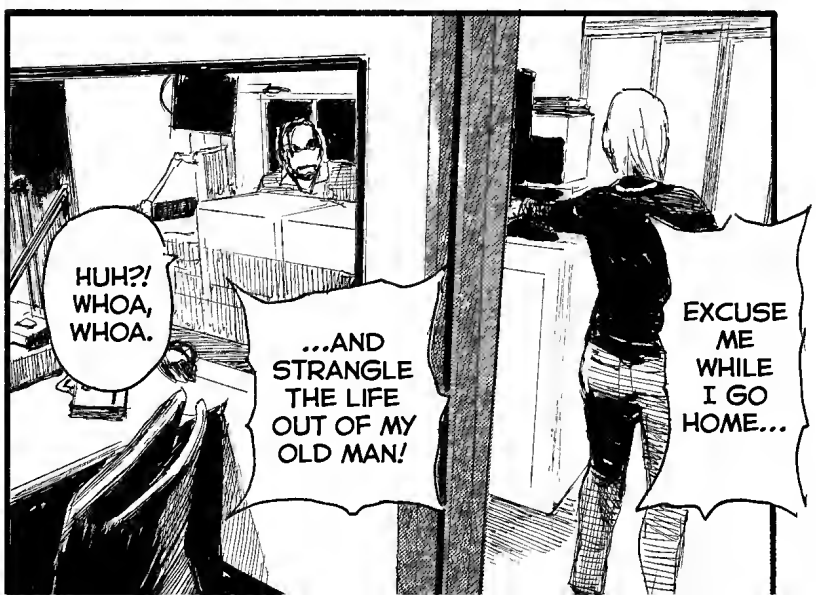
"MINARE," THEN.
OKAY.

Michiru
Natsumi
Reiko
UHH...

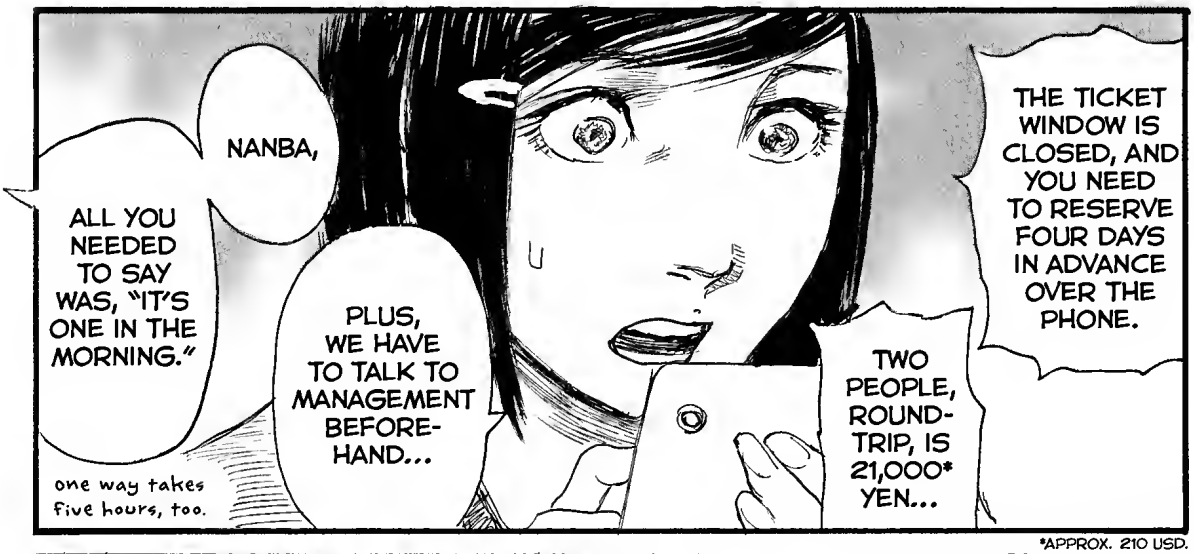
110カ THWA

A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WILL MAKE FOR BETTER FOOTAGE, RIGHT?!
WE DON'T NEED FOOTAGE IN RADIO...

MATO-SAN!
TAK カッ

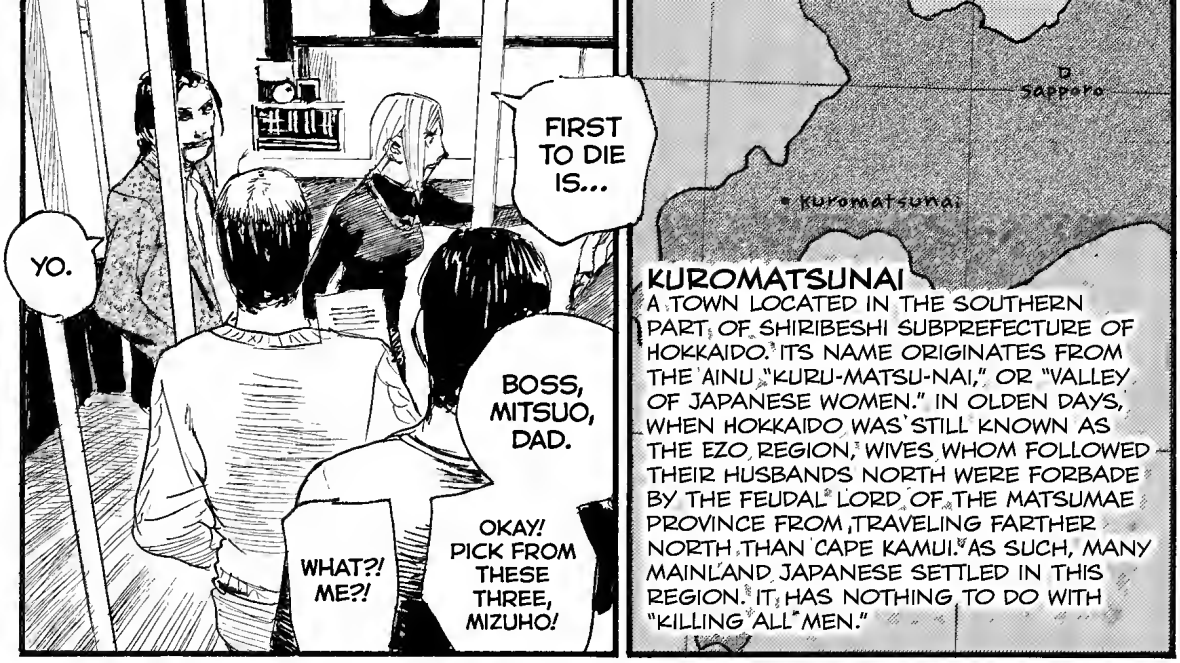

HUH?! WHOA, WHOA.
...AND STRANGLE THE LIFE OUT OF MY OLD MAN!
EXCUSE ME WHILE I GO HOME...

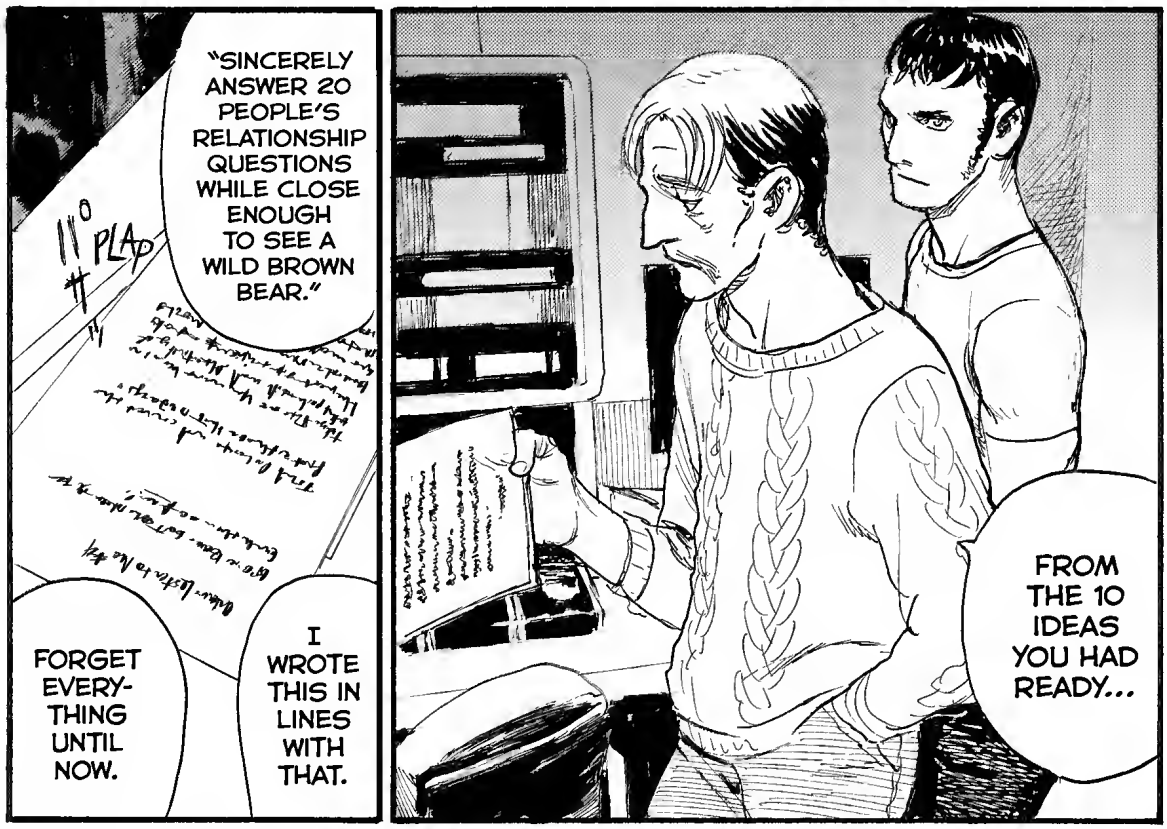
ADORABLE AD, MIZUHO!
BOOK TWO SEATS FOR THE STARLIGHT KUSHIRO BUS, PRONTO!
NO WAY! IT'S ONE IN THE MORN-ING.
AND WE GO LIVE AT THREE!


THE TICKET WINDOW IS CLOSED, AND YOU NEED TO RESERVE FOUR DAYS IN ADVANCE OVER THE PHONE.
TWO PEOPLE, ROUND-TRIP, IS 21,000* YEN...
PLUS, WE HAVE TO TALK TO MANAGEMENT BEFORE-HAND...
NANBA,
ALL YOU NEEDED TO SAY WAS, "IT'S ONE IN THE MORNING."
one way takes five hours, too.

*APPROX. 210 USD.

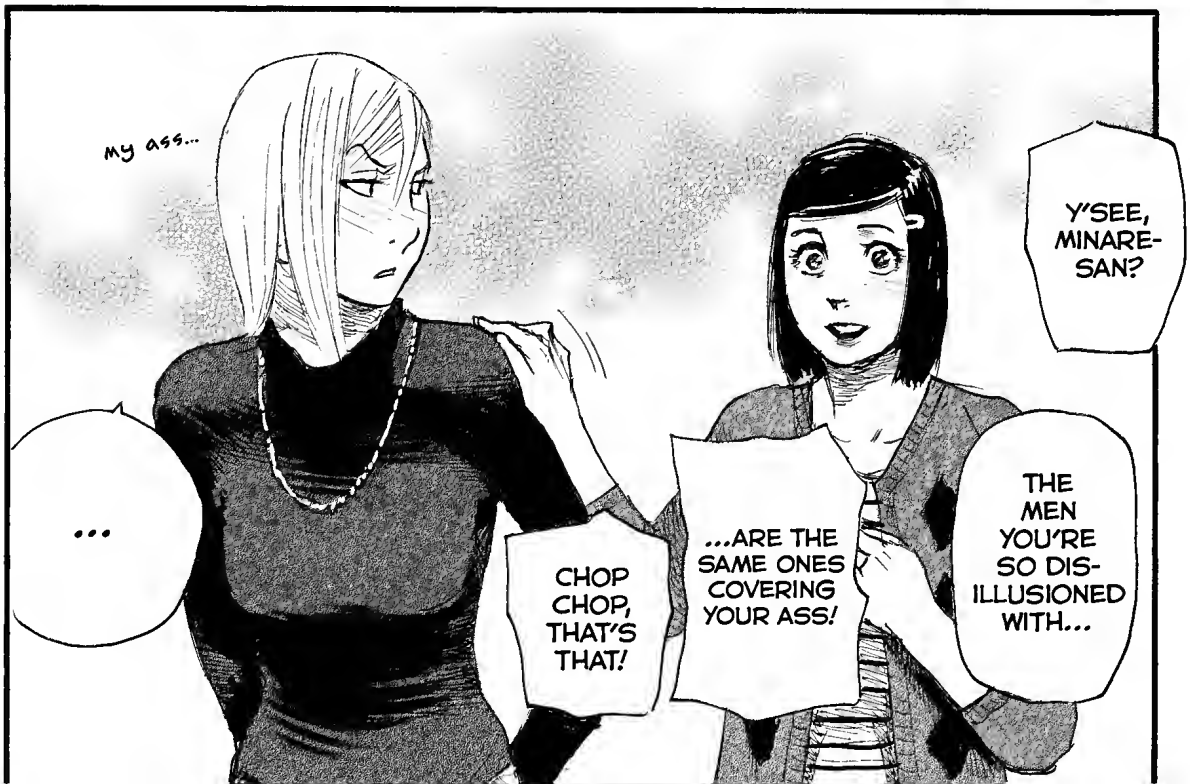
I'M GONNA TURN THIS INTO A FULL-BLOWN FEMINIST SHOW SO IN-YOUR-FACE THAT EVEN PEOPLE IN THE STATION WILL TIP-TOE AROUND IT LIKE, "KODA-SAN'S SHOW IS ENTERTAINING, BUT IT'S KINDA... Y'KNOW?"
WOMEN MUST HEAL! MEN MUST ROT!
FORGET ALL THAT SHIT ABOUT MAKING THIS A SHOW LIKE A WARM, FLUFFY TOWEL!
IT'S FINE! WHO CARES IF WE POLAR-IZE THE AUDI-ENCE?
WE WON'T GET ANY LISTENERS UNLESS WE DECIDE ON A TARGET DEMO-GRAPHIC!
GIVE ME THIRTY.
...ALL RIGHT.
I WANT TO ROUND UP AND KILL ALL THE MEN IN HOKKAIDO AND TURN THIS INTO A COUNTRY OF WOMEN, LIKE THE KURO-MATSUNAI OF ELD!
NAH, NOTHING LIMP-WRISTED LIKE THAT. MORE... AMAZONIAN.
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE IT LIKE A PR SHOW ABOUT GENDER QUALITY?


YO.
FIRST TO DIE IS...
BOSS, MITSUO, DAD.
OKAY! PICK FROM THESE THREE, MIZUHO!
WHAT?! ME?!
Sapporo
• kuromatsunai
KUROMATSUNAI
A TOWN LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF SHIRIBESHI SUBPREFECTURE OF HOKKAIDO. ITS NAME ORIGINATES FROM THE AINU "KURU-MATSU-NAI," OR "VALLEY OF JAPANESE WOMEN." IN OLDEN DAYS, WHEN HOKKAIDO WAS STILL KNOWN AS THE EZO REGION, WIVES WHOM FOLLOWED THEIR HUSBANDS NORTH WERE FORBADE BY THE FEUDAL LORD OF THE MATSUMAE PROVINCE FROM TRAVELING FARTHER NORTH THAN CAPE KAMUI. AS SUCH, MANY MAINLAND JAPANESE SETTLED IN THIS REGION. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH "KILLING ALL MEN."


"SINCERELY ANSWER 20 PEOPLE'S RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS WHILE CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE A WILD BROWN BEAR."
FORGET EVERY-THING UNTIL NOW.
I WROTE THIS IN LINES WITH THAT.
FROM THE 10 IDEAS YOU HAD READY...

I THOUGHT IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE KOMOTO AROUND, SO I BROUGHT HIM WITH ME.
OH! THANK YOU.
WANT ONE?
WE CAN'T RECORD ANYTHING ON LOCATION, SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO COOK SOMETHING UP HERE.

THERE'S ONLY TWO HOURS UNTIL THE SHOW, BUT IF WE WANT SOMETHING REALISTIC, IT'S BEST IF WE RECORD SOME-THING.
WANT ME TO WRITE A CUE SHEET?
NAH, WE CAN MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN 10 MINUTES. I'LL DO IT.
PLUS, IT'S A 30-MINUTE SHOW WITH NO SONGS OR SPOTS, SO WE CAN WING IT WITHOUT ONE IF WE NEED TO.
I TOLD THEM WE'RE RECORDING TODAY, BUT THEY'LL BITE MY HEAD OFF IF WE TAKE TOO LONG.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY TELL MASTER CONTROL...


my ass...
Y'SEE, MINARE-SAN?
...
CHOP CHOP, THAT'S THAT!
...ARE THE SAME ONES COVERING YOUR ASS!
THE MEN YOU'RE SO DIS-ILLUSIONED WITH...

WOULD YOU MIND USING THIS AS A BASE?
A FULL TRACK, IF POSSIBLE...
PERSONALLY, I THINK THAT MUCH LIMPNESS IS GOOD FOR LATE-NIGHT.
THE STATION SAYS THE OLD ONE'S TOO LIMP.
LET'S REDO THE OPENING WHILE KOMOTO'S HERE.
Limp...?
OH, HEY! ABOUT THE OPENING...
HEY, GUY!
ODORI PARK!
AH PA
ON YOUR MARKS.
GENGHIS KHAN AIN'T SHIT.
LISTEN UP!
JETHRA! JETHRA!
ROCKIN' THE SPOT.
YO YO!
NO... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE LISTENED TO IT.
IT'S LIKE A RAP BY NORIAKI* AFTER RUNNING A MARATHON AND TRYING TO RECOVER WITHOUT ANY WATER. DID YOU MAKE THIS?
...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

*A JAPANESE RAPPER/VOCALIST ACTIVE FROM 2004-2009.

OR ARE YOU SAYIN' YOU'LL MARRY ME AND BRING HOME THE BACON?! HUH, MATO-SAN?!
GIRAFFE...?
LISTEN, THIS ISN'T JUST *YOUR* SHOW...
WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO I HAVE?! I CAN'T LIVE OFF OF RADIO ALONE!
DO HO HO
HE TOLD ME I HAD TO USE IT OR HE'D FIRE ME AND BUY A GIRAFFE.
IT'S ACTUALLY THE OWNER OF VOYAGER'S NEPHEW'S.
FWOO
!

IT WENT THROUGH.
THAT THING I MENTIONED BEFORE...
Force of habit.
Y'know, you can smoke your e-cig inside.
SORRY TO GRAB YOU ON YOUR WAY OUT.
TELL THAT TO KOMOTO. I JUST DECIDED TO PEEK IN ON THE BOOTH.
...
YOU MEAN...THE ARAKAWA RANZOU AWARD?!
I SEE...

SO, YOU'RE FINALLY LEAVING MRS, HUH?
HEY.
...

WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE FOR PEOPLE TO DO WHEN THEY'RE SNOWED IN DURING THE HOKKAIDO WINTER.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THE AINU LANGUAGE WAS SO FULL OF DIRTY JOKES?
HAVE A SEAT. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
ARE YOU STUDYING AINU?
IT'S A PRESENTATION BOOK MY DAD GOT FROM SOMEONE AT STV RADIO.
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE CONSIDERING DOING A SHOW TO TEACH AINU. LOOK, THERE'S EVEN A LITTLE DICTIONARY AT THE BACK. IT'S PRETTY NEAT.
I LOVE IT! THE FACT THAT THERE'S SO MANY JOKES GOES TO SHOW HOW MATURE THEIR CULTURE IS.
HUMOR IS SUPER IMPORTANT.
THAT'S THE KIND OF RADIO I WANNA DO SOMEDAY.
THE *MONTY PYTHON* I SAW IN LONDON...
...WAS REALLY COOL, DARK, AND AWESOME IN ITS OWN REGARD...
...BUT IT WASN'T THE HUMOR I WANT TO STRIVE FOR.

HE HE... Y'KNOW, WHILE FLIPPING THROUGH THIS BOOK...
...I GOT A REALLY DUMB IDEA. LIKE, SAY, IF I HAD A CHILD...
NOT THE KIND WHERE YOU MAKE A FOOL OF SOMEONE ELSE FOR LAUGHS.
I THINK LAUGHS THAT OCCUR FROM MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF ARE THE MOST PRECIOUS.
MINA: TO LAUGH
...I MIGHT WANT TO GIVE THEM A NAME LIKE THIS.
MINARE. "TO MAKE LAUGH."